

Question 1 – Other Activities

GEAR UP, with the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, co-sponsored four expos this year, which brought a total of 4,000 middle school students to college campuses. The University of Kentucky and University of Louisville sponsored expos in fall 2002; Eastern Kentucky University and Western Kentucky University hosted expos May 20 and 22. The ECU expo featured presentations on DNA crime scene evidence collections from the College of Justice and Safety, as well as a robot-building contest led by the Department of Computer Science. Tony Cruise, a popular radio sportscaster with WHAS radio in Louisville, served as emcee. WBKO television weatherman Jeff Noble hosted the WKU program, which included a chemistry magic show by the Department of Chemistry and an interactive robotics demonstration by Newton's Attic, an organization that works with high school physics students to design and build projects that bring physics to life. At the four expos, 187 colleges and employers provided activities and information to motivate students to attend college and prepare for a career.

The Governor's Third Annual Literacy Summit was held June 17 at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center in Shepherdsville. The summit was sponsored by the Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Kentucky Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, and the Kentucky Center for Family Literacy, under the auspices of the Literacy Partnership. This year's theme was "Literacy by the Numbers" and featured Ron Crouch, director of the Kentucky State Data Center. He presented an array of census, student performance, college enrollment, and other data organized to highlight the educational attainment and workforce development needs of Kentucky's local P-16 councils and Go Higher communities. Over 270 community leaders, educators, and literacy advocates participated in this day-long working session to take a regionally focused look at literacy attainment and its implications for Kentucky.

The Kentucky Literacy Partnership designated two recipients of the first "Commonwealth Literacy Advocate and Star Supporter" (CLASS) awards for efforts to promote literacy attainment. Governor Patton received the award "to an individual for his staunch advocacy of education and literacy throughout his administration." Verizon Corporation received the award "to a corporation for its commitment of resources to literacy programs nationwide." Governor Patton proclaimed the week of June 15-21 as Literacy Week in Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky University and the Council co-sponsored the third statewide conference for participants of the Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program June 11-12. The event brought together approximately 200 middle and junior high school students and program directors from across the Commonwealth. The conference featured academic enrichment sessions on advanced placement courses and the pre-college curriculum, computer use and technology, support systems, and African American history and culture. There also was a special presentation by the Black Cavalry Unit as part of a Civil War reenactment. Students visited the ECU planetarium and toured the college campus and library.

Transylvania University hosted the 16th Annual Academically Proficient African American High School Junior and Senior Conference June 20-21. Students, parents, and college representatives from across the Commonwealth participated in workshops on financial aid and admission, coping skills, communication skills, and selecting a college and a career. A parent workshop also was offered. A college fair for students, parents, and guardians was held at the close of the conference. Representatives from Kentucky's public and private institutions offered information and support to students transitioning from high school to postsecondary education. Approximately 300 students attended.

In June, Governor Patton, Tom Layzell, Bill Brundage, Jim Ramsey, staff from the Kentucky Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education, and Mike Fleitz (Kentucky Council of Carpenters) attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., of the five state partners in the American Diploma Project initiated by Achieve, Inc. (an organization formed by governors and businesses concerned with quality K-12 education), The Education Trust, and the Fordham Foundation. (Additional information about the ADP begins on page 85 of this agenda book.) The ADP states are working together to create national standards for high school graduation and assessment that meet the needs of postsecondary education and the skilled workplace. The ADP is an important part of Kentucky's effort to increase the number of high school graduates ready for postsecondary education and to create a workforce that can support a knowledge-based economy, from the skilled trades through the biotechnology industries.

Also while in Washington, Tom Layzell joined Gene Wilhoit and their counterparts from other states at the annual State CEO K-16 Institute sponsored by the National Association of System Heads. Sessions addressed ways to mobilize state and system leaders to raise student expectations and prepare all students for postsecondary education and a knowledge-based workplace. They also examined ways to enhance the supply and quality of the nation's teaching force. Staff teams from these partner states convened in July to follow up on the NASH state leadership conference.

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